



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-60 TARGETING

ATO PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION

Last Updated: 10 Jan 14

Purpose of the Phase. Accomplished by the CPD ATO production team, this phase finalizes the ATO and associated orders, produces them, and disseminates them to combat units. It is based on commander's guidance (especially the AOD), the MAAP, and component requirements. Airspace control and air defense instructions should be provided in sufficient detail to allow components to plan and execute all missions listed in the ATO. These are usually captured in the [airspace control order](#) (ACO) and the day's [special instructions](#) (SPINS). Instructions contained in the SPINS and the ACO are updated as frequently as required. The ATO, ACO, and SPINS provide operational and tactical direction at appropriate levels of detail. The level of detail should be very explicit when forces operate from different bases and multi-component and/or composite missions are tasked. By contrast, less detail is required when missions are tasked to a single component or base. Components may submit critical changes to target requests and asset availability during this phase of the cycle. Parallel IRC processes may also result in the production of functional specific task orders like the [cyber tasking order](#) (CTO) and [joint space tasking order](#) (JSTO), as based upon applicable functional guidance like the Cyber Control Order (CCO) and SOD.

This stage of the process is where targeting instructions are communicated from the [operational level](#) to the [tactical level](#) (i.e., weapons standard conventional loads, weapon pairing with target and JDPI's, time on target, and fuse settings). It is imperative that targeting instructions include the desired objective of the mission. The mission commander is the final decision-maker prior to execution and must understand the desired effect to be achieved. Concurrent with the ATO, the AOC should make available relevant target materials that may assist tactical units in their mission planning efforts.

Products of the Phase. The ATO is a medium used to task and disseminate to components, subordinate units, and command and control agencies projected sorties, capabilities and/or forces to targets and specific missions. It normally provides specific instructions to include call signs, targets, controlling agencies, etc., as well as general instructions. The ATO may subsume the ACO and SPINS or published as separate orders.

SPINS are a set of instructions that provide information not otherwise available in the ATO, but are necessary for its implementation. This may include such information as commander's guidance (often including the AOD itself), the C2 battle management plan, combat search and rescue procedures, the communications plan, and general instructions for inter- and intratheater [airlift](#).

ROE are rules issued by higher authority that establish imperatives, constraints and restraints. They should be published separately, versus being buried in the SPINS or another document.

The ACO provides direction to integrate, coordinate, and deconflict the use of airspace within the operational area. (Note: this does not imply any level of command authority over air assets.)

The reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (RSTA) annex is produced during this stage by the ISRD. The RSTA annex is the ISR supplement to the ATO. It contains detailed tasking of intelligence collection sensors and processing, exploitation, and dissemination (PED) nodes and provides specific guidance to tasked ISR assets, including ISR platforms, sensors, and (PED).
